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32<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT

Cities:

Delavan, Lake Geneva

Towns:

Bloomfield, Darien,  
Delavan, Geneva, Linn,  
Lyons, Sharon,  
Walworth, Wheatland

Villages:

Darien, Fontana,  
Genoa City, Sharon,  
Walworth, Williams Bay

# THOMAS A. LOTHIAN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Assembly Committee on Urban and Local Affairs  
Public Hearing  
Assembly Bill 347  
September 8, 2009

Thank you Chairperson Berceau and committee members for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 347. This legislation looks to address a concern brought to my attention by Walworth County Administrator David Bretl. Walworth County's Deputy Administrator Shane Crawford will be testifying on the County's behalf.

Assembly Bill 347 is not a mandate, but simply gives counties another option in disposing of unclaimed personal property that has been collected by the county sheriff. Currently, the only option is through a public auction. Many times these auctions are poorly attended and end up costing the county more than they take in from selling the items. Senator Kedzie and I are proposing simply expanding the options available to a county sheriff to include auctioning off this property on an internet auction site. EBay is the best example of a site of this nature.

This legislation does not change the posting requirements that are included in current law. AB 347 does not mandate that a county uses an internet auction site. We are simply expanding the options available to counties in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in order to maximize the return they will receive from selling this property.

Thank you, again, and I would like to turn it over to Senator Kedzie.